

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The trend of government to allow more and more unrestrained consolidation of telecommunications providers is not healthy for the United States republic. For example, there is an obvious deterioration in journalism, some say caused by corporate interference. The problem becomes more acute in other areas affecting content as well. There is also the danger of too much corporate control to the point of becoming a propaganda "machine" for smaller and smaller groups. This trend is not healthy or advantageous for the U.S., only for those at the top.